GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:444
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Safety of Senior Citizens
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat to the lonely senior citizens persists even within the gated residential complexes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to install panic buttons with distress indicators at the Security Office of their residential complexes and in such houses where there are senior citizens living all alone so that immediate help could be provided in case of need;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the resident welfare associations through the local police stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to provide security to senior citizens in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India `Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory dated 30th August, 2013 on "Protection of life and property of senior citizens" which is available at
http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/Advisory_040913.pdf
The advisory enumerates the special crime control measure for
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elderly which include Review of Policing arrangements, strengthening community Policing, Engaging the Resident Welfare Associations, Creation of Self Help Groups and Need for greater awareness.
Section 22(2) of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen's Act, 2007 mandates the State Governments to prescribe a comprehensive action plan for providing protection of life and property of senior citizens.
As per paragraph 66 of the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999, Voluntary Organisations and Association of older persons will be assisted to provide protective services and help to senior citizens through helpline services, legal aid and other measures. Para 67 of the NPOP, 1999 calls for the Police to keep a friendly vigil on older couples or old single persons living alone and promote mechanism of interaction with neighborhood associations.
The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which Grant in aid is given to NGOs/ Voluntary Organisation/ Panchayati Raj Institutions for running and maintenance of Help Lines and Counselling facilities for older persons.
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